

# POWERLINES

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | FEBRUARY 2020



## What makes your co-op board powerful?

by General Manager Steve Strohane

It's powerful to know that Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative is one of 895 rural electric co-ops across America. We find strength in numbers and the cooperative principles that guide us. One of our cooperative principles is *Democratic Member Participation*, which means we are governed by a board of directors elected by you, the members.

Co-ops have much in common, but each is different, based on the unique needs of its community.

Here at Polk-Burnett, we have nine directors, representing nine districts. Directors serve three-year terms and attend monthly meetings, generally the fourth Monday of each month. Board responsibilities include:

- Setting the co-op's mission, vision and values
- Maintaining legal, regulatory and internal compliance
- Approving the annual budget and system improvements
- Hiring the general manager and evaluating performance
- Developing policies
- Setting electric rates



Directors represent the best interests of all members when making decisions for the co-op, and our leaders respond to local issues—such as economic development and renewable energy—with hometown values.

*When decision makers are elected by local peers, you can be certain our local community is represented. Co-op directors live in the communities we serve and want to see our local communities thrive.*

Polk-Burnett directors receive education and training, just like our employees, to understand and be successful in today's complex energy environment. In addition, all directors pledge to act ethically, with fiduciary care and loyalty.

Having the right people at the table creates a powerful force with a unified purpose. A successful co-op needs stewards who bring reason and a measured approach, as well as visionaries who dream of possibilities before us.

### Make your voice heard in co-op director election

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative holds elections each spring for co-op board directors. This year, board positions in co-op districts 1, 2 and 3 will be on the ballot. Members residing in those districts have an opportunity to get involved in co-op decision making by running for a seat on the board. Applications for the 2020 board election are now being accepted from co-op members in districts 1, 2 and 3. The deadline to apply is March 6.

**DISTRICT 1:** Farmington and Somerset townships, and parts of Osceola, Alden and Garfield townships. The incumbent director is Cindy Thorman of Osceola.

**DISTRICT 2:** St. Croix Falls, Eureka, Sterling, Laketown and Milltown townships, and part of Osceola township. The incumbent director is Mike Morris of Luck.

**DISTRICT 3:** Lincoln, Blackbrook, Clear Lake, Vance Creek, Star Prairie, Forest and New Haven townships, and parts of Garfield and Alden townships. The incumbent director is Ed Gullickson of Amery.

All co-op members in districts 1, 2 and 3 will have the opportunity to cast their votes in the 2020 board election. Ballots mail in early May and members can vote by mail or online. Election results will be announced at the co-op's annual meeting June 5. New director terms begin June 22.

**Co-op members have the opportunity to make your voices heard and represent your neighbors by taking an active role in cooperative governance. Democratic member participation is one of the greatest advantages of a cooperative. I encourage you to consider participating in our 2020 board election.**

Co-op members interested in running for a board position to represent district 1, 2 or 3 may contact my office for an application, 800-421-0283, ext. 313. You can also learn more about Polk-Burnett's board of directors and see a map of co-op districts on polkburnett.com.

*Electric co-ops are unique because we are owned and governed by the local members we serve. Co-op leaders are members, just like you. They live here and understand the community.*

## Drive electric: Co-op rebates, seminar and charging station

We're excited to help co-op members learn more about electric vehicles. We offer a **free public charging station at Marketplace Foods in St. Croix Falls** and rebates for EV chargers at your home. If you're interested in EV technology, please attend our free seminar in March or give us a call anytime. We're here to help change the way you fuel transportation!



Drive Electric! Learn if an e-vehicle is right for you.

### FREE EV SEMINAR

with Jeff Springer, EV expert  
Dairyland Power Cooperative

Tues., March 24, 5:30 p.m.  
Polk-Burnett, Centuria  
Call to register, 800-421-0283, x595



## CO-OP MEMBERS: GET A \$400 REBATE ON AN E-VEHICLE CHARGER PLUS LOW OFF-PEAK RATE

We're changing the way  
America fuels  
transportation!

REBATES FOR CO-OP MEMBERS  
**Energy Sense**

SEE WHAT'S NEW IN E-VEHICLES FOR 2020!



## Four safety tips for winter

It's no surprise that winter brings increased risk for fires. Please safeguard your home and family:

### 1. DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS or EXTENSION CORDS!

### 2. INSPECT HEATING PADS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS:

Do not use if charred, frayed or damaged.

Do not put anything on top of them and never fold them when in use.

### 3. USE PORTABLE GENERATORS SAFELY:

Never connect a standby generator to your home's electrical system. Plug appliances directly into the outlet on the generator. Run in well-ventilated area outside your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, windows and vents.

### 4. NEVER LEAVE SPACE HEATERS UNATTENDED:

Turn space heaters off when you leave the room. Plug space heater directly into an outlet, never an extension cord. Place heater on a level, nonflammable surface, at least three feet away from furniture, rugs and curtains. Remember that space heaters take a toll on your energy bill!! Contact us for energy efficient heating options, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.



## Sign up for outage text alerts

We'll send you a text when a power outage is reported in your area and when power is restored.

We'll also text estimated restoration time and outage cause, when possible.

**Report outages on SmartHub or 800-421-0283.**

Visit our online Outage Center for outage map and outage text enrollment.

[polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)

## Brighten your yard from dusk to dawn

Energy efficient LED security lights installed on Polk-Burnett poles operate from dusk to dawn.

Members are charged a monthly fee for the light and may be charged for installation.

### LED security lights for members of Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative

Visit our website or call for details:  
800-421-0283, ext. 308

[polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)



**SIGN UP FOR OUTAGE TEXT ALERTS  
SEE LIVE OUTAGE MAP** [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)

## Access to your electric account has never been so easy!

MANAGE  
YOUR ACCOUNT



VIEW YOUR  
ELECTRIC USE



PAY  
YOUR BILL



VIEW & REPORT  
POWER OUTAGES



Get a \$5 electric bill credit when you sign up for SmartHub and switch to paperless billing!



Download SmartHub from your app store or [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)

## ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Join us Friday, June 5 for food, free stuff and fun!

IF YOU RECEIVE AN EMAIL SURVEY, WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK TO HELP US IMPROVE.

All members who submit a survey will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 bill credit.

Polk-Burnett is your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative. Reliable power with efficiency and extraordinary service.

Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter.

800-421-0283 • [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

